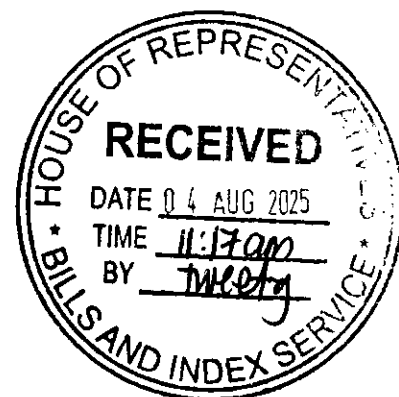


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2897



Introduced by Honorable Representatives
LEILA M. DE LIMA
EDGAR R. ERICE
ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG
ARLENE "KAKA" J. BAG-AO
JAIME R. FRESNEDI
CIELO KRISSEL B. LAGMAN
ALFONSO V. UMALI, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The people's right to information is provided under Article III, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution, which reads:

Section 7. The right of the people to information on matters of public concern shall be recognized. Access to official records, and to documents, and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law.

However, more than 30 years since the ratification of the Constitution and despite numerous legislative efforts dating back to the 8th Congress when then-Representative Raul Roco first filed a Freedom of Information (FOI) bill under House Bill No. 498, there is yet to be a law institutionalizing the people's right to information. In the succeeding Congresses, multiple FOI bills have been filed in the House of Representatives and the Senate, but none of these bills has made it to the President's table.

The FOI bill reached the farthest in the legislative process under the 14th Congress when House Bill No. 3732 and Senate Bill No. 3308 were approved on third reading in their respective chambers. However, only the Senate approved the FOI bill in the bicameral committee stage.

In the Senate, an FOI bill was unanimously approved on its final reading in the 16th Congress. In the House of Representatives, however, succeeding FOI bills filed have stalled, as former House majority leader Neptali Gonzales II admitted that “many lawmakers” do not want to pass an FOI bill for fear of it being weaponized against them.¹

On July 23, 2016, then-President Rodrigo Duterte issued Executive Order No. 2, mandating all government agencies under the executive branch to make government records public. President Duterte ended up defying his own EO when he refused to disclose his Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) to the public without facing any serious repercussions.² Under Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2023,³ President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. added exceptions to the list of accessible information provided in Duterte’s EO. Among these exclusions is information on investigations of the Presidential Anti-Corruption Commission, the defunct anti-corruption government agency created by Duterte in 2017 and subsequently abolished by Marcos in 2022. These further emphasize the need to institutionalize the people’s right to information through legislation.

Besides the institutionalization of the Constitutional right to information, a Freedom of Information (FOI) bill, which is law in more than 120 countries,⁴ is also necessary to bring forth the following: (1) fostering citizen engagement and participation in governance, (2) promoting human rights by publicizing information on victims who suffered under authoritarian rule, (3) holding government accountable through strengthening transparency, especially in the use of public funds, and (4) leveling the playing field for businesses to monitor fairness among regulators.⁵ Furthermore, as the country continues to be plagued by corruption in government and rapidly evolving forms of fake news and disinformation, an FOI bill shall equip the general public with the information necessary to combat these social cancers.

This bill seeks to finally legislate the people’s freedom of information to adequately address the vulnerabilities and problems that arise from the lack of transparency and access to information. This bill adopts several provisions from the

¹ Malaluan, N. (10 September 2012). FOI death by inaction looms in 15th Congress. PhilStar Global. Retrieved from <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2012/09/10/847437/foi-death-inaction-looms-15th-congress>.

² Cristy, K.A. and Melgarejo, K. (31 August 2023). TIMELINE: FOI still in legislative limbo after 31 years. Retrieved from <https://www.tinignngplaridel.net/foi-bill-pending/>.


³ Memorandum Circular No. 15, s. 2023. Updating the Inventory of Exceptions to the Right to Access of Information under Executive Order No. 2, s. 2016. Retrieved from <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2023/03/17/memorandum-circular-no-15-s-2023/>.

⁴ Freedom of Information. Makati Business Club. Retrieved from <https://mbc.com.ph/freedom-of-information/>.

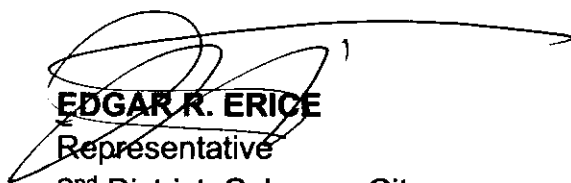
⁵ Magno, F. (25 October 2017). The Long March to Transparency: Institutionalizing FOI in the Philippines. Stratbase Institute. Retrieved from https://adrinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/foi-special-study_oct-2017.pdf.

previous FOI bills filed in both the Senate and the House of Representatives in the 14th to present Congresses.


Early approval of this measure is requested.




LEILA M. DE LIMA
Representative
Mamamayang Liberal (ML)



EDGAR R. ERICE
Representative
2nd District, Caloocan City



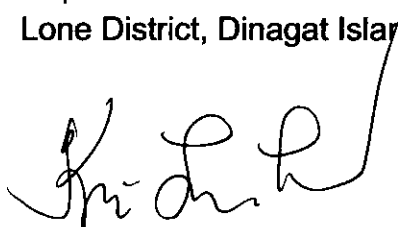
ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG
Representative
3rd District, Zamboanga del Norte



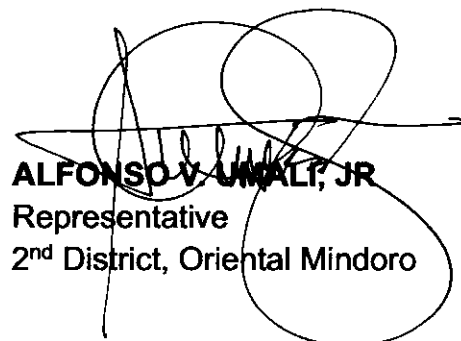
ARLENE "KAKA" J. BAG-AO
Representative
Lone District, Dinagat Islands



JAIME R. FRESNEDI
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City



CIELO KRISSEL B. LAGMAN
Representative
1st District, Albay



ALFONSO V. UMALI, JR.
Representative
2nd District, Oriental Mindoro

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2897**

Introduced by Honorable Representatives
LEILA M. DE LIMA
EDGAR R. ERICE
ADRIAN MICHAEL A. AMATONG
ARLENE "KAKA" J. BAG-AO
JAIME R. FRESNEDI
CIELO KRISSEL B. LAGMAN
ALFONSO V. UMALI, JR.

AN ACT
IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE
CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN
THE PUBLIC SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION. 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "People's Freedom
2 of Information Act of 2025."
3

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 recognize the right of the people to information on matters of public concern and to
6 adopt and implement a policy of full public disclosure of all its transactions involving
7 public interest, subject to the procedures and limitations provided by this Act. It is
8 likewise the policy of the State to promote the meaningful and increased participation
9 of the people in government decision-making and public accountability.
10

11 Towards these ends, public officials and employees, in the performance of their
12 duties, as well as citizens in the exercise of their rights under this Act, shall handle
13 information kept or obtained fairly and lawfully, with due regard to the full protection of
14 the right to privacy of individuals.

1 SEC. 3. *Coverage.* – This Act shall cover government agencies. Government
2 agencies refer to the executive, legislative and judicial branches as well as the
3 constitutional bodies of the Republic of the Philippines including, but not limited to, the
4 national government and all its agencies, departments, bureaus, offices and
5 instrumentalities, constitutional commissions and constitutionally mandated bodies,
6 local governments and all their agencies, regulatory agencies, chartered institutions,
7 Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), including wholly-owned or
8 controlled subsidiaries, government financial institutions, State Universities and
9 Colleges (SUCs), the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), the Philippine National
10 Police (PNP), all offices in the Congress of the Philippines including the offices of
11 Senators and Representatives, the Supreme Court, all other appellate courts and
12 lower courts established by law.

13
14 SEC. 4. *Definitions of Terms.* – As used in this Act:

- 15
16 a) **Information** shall mean any public and/or official record, document,
17 paper, report, letter, contract, minutes and transcripts of official
18 meetings, maps, books, photographs, data, research materials in
19 whatever form, or films, audio and video recordings, magnetic or other
20 tapes, electronic data, computer stored data, or archived data in
21 whatever format, which are made, received, or kept in or under the
22 control and custody of any government agency pursuant to law,
23 executive order, rules and regulations, ordinance or in connection with
24 the performance or transaction of official business by any government
25 agency.
- 26
27 b) **Official record/s** shall refer to information produced or received by a
28 public officer or employee, or by a government agency in an official
29 capacity or pursuant to a public function or duty. This shall not refer to
30 the stage or status of the information.
- 31
32 c) **Public record/s** shall include information required by law, executive
33 orders, rules, or regulations to be entered, kept, and made publicly
34 available by a government agency/office.
- 35
36 d) **Public service contractor** shall be defined as a private entity that has
37 a dealing, contract, or transaction of whatever nature with the
38 government or a government agency / office that utilizes public funds.
- 39
40 e) **Personal information** shall refer to any information, whether recorded
41 in a material form or not, from which the identity of an individual is
42 apparent or can be reasonably and directly ascertained by the entity
43 holding the information or when put together with other information would
44 directly and certainly identify an individual.

- 1 f) **Sensitive personal information** shall refer to personal information:
2 1) about an individual's race, ethnic origin, marital status, age, color
3 and religious, philosophical or political affiliations;
4
5 2) about an individual's health, education, genetics, or sexual life, or
6 any proceedings for any offense committed or alleged to have
7 been committed by such person, the disposal of such
8 proceedings, or the sentence of any court;
9
10 3) issued by government agencies peculiar to an individual which
11 includes, but not limited to, social security numbers, previous or
12 current health records, licenses or its denials, suspension or
13 revocation and tax returns; and
14
15 4) specifically established by an Executive Order or an Act of
16 Congress to be kept classified.
17
18 g) **Privileged information** refers to any and all forms of data which, under
19 the Rules of Court and other pertinent laws, constitute privileged
20 communication;
21
22 h) **Dataset** refers to an organized collection of data, which is presented in
23 a variety of forms such as but not limited to tabular, geospatial, or image
24 data files.
25
26 i) **Machine-readable** refers to formats that allow computer programs to
27 easily extract and process the data contained within the file.
28
29 j) **Open format** refers to a data format that is platform independent,
30 machine readable, and made available to the public without restrictions
31 that would impede the re-use of the contained information.
32

33 **SEC. 5. Access to Information.** – Every person who is a Filipino citizen, upon
34 request, has a right to, and shall be given access to any record under the control of a
35 government agency. Government agencies and public officials shall have the duty to
36 disclose and make available for scrutiny, copying, and reproduction in the manner
37 provided by this Act, all information pertaining to official acts, transactions, or
38 decisions, as well as government research data used as a basis for policy
39 development, subject to the exceptions enumerated under Section 7 of this Act,
40 regardless of their physical form or format in which they are contained and by whom
41 they were made.

1 Nothing contained herein shall allow private acts, transactions, or records of
2 public officials and private individuals to be the subject of mandatory disclosure under
3 this Act: *Provided, however*, that income tax returns, and statement of assets, liabilities
4 and net worth (SALN) of public officials shall be released subject to existing laws,
5 rules, and regulations: *Provided, further*, that the limitations and prohibitions to make
6 available to the public the SALN shall not apply when upon order of the
7 Sandiganbayan, it has been established that there is probable cause related to the
8 commission of an offense.

9
10 **SEC. 6. *Presumption.*** – There shall be a legal presumption in favor of access
11 to information. The request for information may be denied only if it clearly falls under
12 the exceptions provided under this Act. Accordingly, government agencies shall have
13 the burden of proving that the information requested is exempted from disclosure by
14 this Act.

15
16 **SEC. 7. *Exceptions.*** – Access to information shall be granted unless:

17
18 a) The information is specifically authorized to be kept secret under
19 guidelines established by an Executive Order (E.O.), and in fact properly
20 classified pursuant thereto: *Provided*, that:

21
22 1) The information directly relates to national security or defense
23 and its revelation may cause grave damage to the national
24 security or internal and external defense of the State; or

25
26 2) The information requested pertains to the foreign affairs of the
27 Republic of the Philippines, when its revelation shall unduly
28 weaken the negotiating position of the government in an ongoing
29 bilateral or multilateral negotiation or seriously jeopardize the
30 diplomatic relations of the Philippines with any state, or prejudice
31 the entrusting of information to the Republic of the Philippines on
32 a basis of confidence by the government of any other country or
33 any international organization: *Provided*, that sufficient
34 information is disclosed to afford reasonable public participation
35 in government decision-making on bilateral and multilateral
36 agreements: *Provided, further*, that the executive order shall
37 specify the reasonable period after which the information shall be
38 automatically declassified or subject to mandatory
39 declassification review, and that any reasonable doubt as to
40 classification and declassification shall be settled in favor of the
41 right to information;

42
43 b) The information consists of records or minutes of advice given and of
44 opinions expressed during decision-making or policy formulation,

1 invoked by the Chief Executive to be privileged by reason of the
2 impairment of the Chief Executive's deliberative process that would
3 result from the disclosure thereof. Once policy has been formulated and
4 decisions made, minutes and research data may be made available for
5 disclosure unless they were made in executive session;
6

7 c) The information requested pertains to internal and/or external defense,
8 law enforcement, and border control, when the disclosure thereof would:

9
10 1) compromise or interfere with any legitimate military or law
11 enforcement operation;

12
13 2) compromise or interfere with the prevention, detection, or
14 suppression of criminal activity, the effective implementation of
15 immigration controls and border security;

16
17 3) deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial
18 adjudication;

19
20 4) lead to the disclosure of the identity of a confidential source,
21 including a government, or foreign agency or authority, or any
22 private institution which furnished information on a confidential
23 basis, and, in the case of a record or information compiled by a
24 law enforcement authority in the course of an investigation or by
25 an agency conducting a lawful national security intelligence
26 investigation, information furnished by a confidential source;

27
28 5) disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement
29 investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for
30 law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure
31 could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law; or
32

33 6) endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.

34
35 d) The information requested pertains to matters of human security, such
36 as, but not limited to, food, health, money, and trade: *Provided*, that
37 such disclosure or premature disclosure will imperil our well-being or
38 degrade the quality of life of our people by causing unnecessary panic
39 and conflict and threatening to limit the range of policy choices
40 available to the concerned implementing and regulating agencies;
41 *Provided, further*, that this exception shall apply only until such time
42 that the confidentiality requirement of the action plan of said agency is
43 no longer necessary in addressing the said security issue;

- 1 e) The information requested pertains to the assistance of the
2 government to overseas Filipino workers, including but not limited to
3 their cases and records on criminal and family cases; and information
4 that could compromise or weaken their case or position in any legal
5 proceeding;
6
- 7 f) The information requested involves records of foreign diplomats on
8 diplomatic and consular missions, their arrival and departure, and other
9 information that could compromise their safety or that such information
10 is considered confidential by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic
11 Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations;
12
- 13 g) The information requested is exempted under a treaty or bilateral
14 agreement to which the Philippines is a party;
15
- 16 h) The information requested consists of drafts of the following: orders,
17 resolutions, decisions, memoranda, or audit reports by any executive,
18 administrative, regulatory, constitutional, judicial, or quasi-judicial body
19 in the exercise of their regulatory, audit, and adjudicatory functions, the
20 revelation of which would impair the impartiality of verdicts or otherwise
21 obstruct the administration of justice;
22
- 23 i) The information requested is obtained by either House of Congress, or
24 any committee thereof, in executive session;
25
- 26 j) The information requested pertains to personal and sensitive information
27 of a natural person other than the requesting party, whether from the
28 public or the private sector, and its disclosure would constitute an
29 unwarranted invasion of his or her personal privacy. This may include
30 signatures, addresses, telephone numbers, identification numbers,
31 family members, race or ethnicity, religion, health, education, sexual
32 orientation, and similar information, unless such information is
33 specifically required by law to be entered into an official record and made
34 available to the public, or the person has consented in writing to the
35 disclosure of the information. To the extent required to prevent an
36 unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, an agency may redact such
37 information from a record made available to the public. However, the
38 justification for the deletion shall be explained fully in writing, and the
39 extent of such deletion shall be indicated on the portion of the record
40 which is made available or published;
41
- 42 k) The information requested pertains to trade secrets and commercial or
43 financial information or intellectual property obtained from a natural or
44 juridical person other than the requesting party, whenever the revelation

1 thereof would seriously prejudice the interests of such natural or juridical
2 person in trade, industrial, financial or commercial competition;

3
4 l) The information is classified as privileged communications in legal
5 proceedings by law by the Rules of Court, unless the person entitled to
6 the privilege has waived it;

7
8 m) The information requested is exempted by law or the Constitution, in
9 addition to those provided in this section;

10
11 n) The information is of a nature that its premature disclosure would,

12
13 1) in the case of a government agency that regulates or deals with
14 currencies, interest rates, securities, commodities, or financial
15 institutions, likely lead to fraud, manipulation, or other unlawful
16 acts or schemes involving currencies, interest rates, securities, or
17 the commodities market; or

18
19 2) in the case of other government agencies, likely frustrate the
20 effective implementation of a proposed official action: *Provided*,
21 that the information shall be accessible once the anticipated
22 danger has ceased.

23
24 o) The information has already been made accessible as provided for in
25 Section 12; and

26
27 p) The information requested pertains to information about the ongoing
28 evaluation or review of bids or proposals undertaken by the bidding or
29 review committee prior to an official recommendation by the government.
30

31 For paragraphs (c) to (p) of this section, the determination whether any of these
32 grounds shall apply shall be the responsibility of the head of office of the government
33 agency in custody or control of the information, or any responsible central or field
34 officer/s duly designated by him.

35
36 **SEC. 8. *Qualifications.* –**

37
38 1) The exceptions in the preceding section shall be strictly construed;

39
40 2) The exceptions cannot be invoked to cover-up legitimate investigations
41 being conducted by law enforcement agencies or the Legislature
42 involving the commission of a crime, wrongdoing, graft, corruption, or
43 any unlawful activity wherein such information is material or relevant to
44 the allegations or issues;

- 1 3) The President, the Supreme Court, the Senate, the House of
2 Representatives, and the Constitutional Commissions with a majority
3 vote of the body in accordance with their own rules of procedure when
4 applicable may waive an exception with respect to information in the
5 custody of offices under their respective supervision or control, when
6 they deem that there is an overriding public interest in disclosure;
7
8 4) The exceptions do not constitute authority to withhold information from,
9 or limit the availability of records to Congress, or any of its committees;
10
11 5) The exceptions do not constitute an authority for the executive branch of
12 a Local Government Unit (LGU) to withhold information from its
13 legislative body;
14
15 6) Whenever the information requested is part of a record, whose other
16 parts are covered by an exception, but may be reasonably severed from
17 a record, the responding official shall communicate the information not
18 covered by the exception to the requester; and
19
20 7) The exceptions set forth in this section may be overcome if the requester
21 is able to prove before a court of competent jurisdiction that the public
22 interest in the disclosure of information outweighs the public interest in
23 keeping the information secret or confidential.
24

25 All exempted information under this section shall be mandatorily reviewed after
26 every three (3) years by the head of office or agency in custody or control of the
27 information for reclassification and possible disclosure: *Provided*, that such
28 information to be disclosed by an agency under the executive branch shall be subject
29 to the approval of the President.
30

31 **SEC. 9. Mandatory Disclosure of Information. –**
32

33 (a) In fulfillment of Article XI, Section 17 of the Constitution, the following
34 national officials shall disclose to the public, through the websites of their respective
35 offices, their Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Worth (SALN) on an annual
36 basis:

- 37 1) the President;
38
39 2) the Vice-President;
40
41 3) the Members of the Cabinet;
42
43 4) the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives;

1 5) the Justices of the Supreme Court;

2
3 6) the Commissioners of the Constitutional Commissions and other
4 constitutional offices; and

5
6 7) the officers of the Armed Forces with the rank of general or the
7 equivalent flag rank.

8
9 *Provided*, that sensitive personal information contained in the SALN such as:

10
11 i. Home address of the declarant;

12
13 ii. Details of any unmarried children below eighteen (18) years of age living
14 in the declarant's household, if any, particularly their names, dates of
15 birth, and ages;

16
17 iii. Signatures of the declarant and co-declarant; and

18
19 iv. Government-issued ID numbers of the declarant and co-declarant
20 redacted to protect the dignity, safety, and security of the public officer

21
22 shall be redacted: *Provided, further*, that all SALNs for previous years shall be archived
23 and kept available on the said websites.

24
25 (b) All agencies of all branches of government shall publish on their websites
26 and update on a monthly basis, a register of the following public interest transactions,
27 documents, or records, including:

28
29 1) Annual budget of government agencies;

30
31 2) Itemized monthly collections and disbursement;

32
33 3) Summary of income and expenditures;

34
35 4) Component of the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) utilization;

36
37 5) Annual procurement plan and procurement list;

38
39 6) An updated plantilla of positions and vacant positions with qualifications/
40 requirements in their organizations that need to be filled up;

41
42 7) Items for bidding;

- 1 8) Bid results on civil works, and goods and services;
- 2
- 3 9) Abstract of bids as calculated;
- 4
- 5 10) Procurement contracts entered into by a government agency with
- 6 corresponding income tax returns, if applicable, of the person or entity
- 7 awarded of the same;
- 8
- 9 11) Construction or concession agreements or contracts entered into by a
- 10 government agency with any domestic or foreign person or entity;
- 11
- 12 12) Private sector participation agreements or contracts in infrastructure and
- 13 development projects under Republic Act No. 6957, otherwise known as
- 14 the Philippine BOT Law, as amended by Republic Act No. 7718,
- 15 authorizing the financing, construction, operation, and maintenance of
- 16 infrastructure projects;
- 17
- 18 13) Public funding extended to any private entity;
- 19
- 20 14) Bilateral or multilateral agreements and treaties in trade, economic
- 21 partnership, investments, cooperation, and similar binding
- 22 commitments;
- 23
- 24 15) Licenses, permits, or agreements granted by any government agency to
- 25 any person or entity for the extraction and/or utilization of natural
- 26 resources and a list of the grantees;
- 27
- 28 16) Guarantees given by any government agency to Government-Owned or
- 29 -Controlled Corporations (GOCCs) and to private corporations, persons,
- 30 or entities;
- 31
- 32 17) Loans from domestic and foreign financial institutions;
- 33
- 34 18) Loans, grants, development assistance, technical assistance, and
- 35 programs entered into by a government agency with official bilateral or
- 36 multilateral agencies, as well as with private aid agencies or institutions;
- 37 and
- 38
- 39 19) Compromise agreements entered into by a government agency with any
- 40 person or entity.
- 41

42 The register shall contain a brief description of the transaction involved,
43 including, but not limited to: the nature and object of the transaction, the parties and
44 amounts involved, the key steps undertaken towards its conclusion, and the relevant

1 dates, provided that contracts and agreements involving an amount of at least Fifty
2 Million Pesos (P50,000,000.00) shall be published in full on the website of the
3 concerned government agency or the Official Gazette Online subject to the
4 succeeding section. A covered record shall be enrolled in the register not later than
5 thirty (30) working days from its perfection or issuance.

6
7 (c) All government agencies shall, over time, endeavor and build the capacity
8 and practice to publish in full all other contracts, agreements, or treaties covered under
9 this Section, especially those that are of the highest public interest by reason of the
10 amounts involved and the impact of the transaction to the public. All government
11 agencies must ensure that they have a compliant website within two (2) years from
12 the effectivity of this Act.

13
14 (d) Should an agency lack the capacity to comply with the website publication
15 requirement of this Section, the agency shall initiate a capacity-building program,
16 coordinate with another appropriate agency, or use an alternative mechanism, to
17 facilitate substantive compliance not later than three (3) years from the effectivity of
18 this Act.

19
20 **SEC. 10. *Openness and Transparency in Government.*** – Each government
21 agency shall regularly publish, print, and disseminate at no cost and in an accessible
22 form, consistent with Republic Act 9485, or the Anti-Red Tape Act of 2007, and through
23 their website, timely, true, accurate, and updated key information including, but not
24 limited to:

- 25
26 a) A description of its mandate, structure, powers, functions, duties, and
27 decision-making processes;
28
29 b) A description of the frontline services it delivers and the procedure and
30 length of time by which they may be availed of;
31
32 c) The names of its key officials, their powers, functions and
33 responsibilities, and their profiles and curriculum vitae;
34
35 d) Audited financial statements, and budget and expenditure records;
36
37 e) SALN of all public officials with Salary Grade 27 and above, and heads
38 of office;
39
40 f) Monthly income including allowances and sources of income of all public
41 officials with Salary Grade 27 and above, and heads of office;

- 1 g) Work programs, development plans, investment plans, projects,
2 performance targets, and accomplishments, and budgets, revenue
3 allotments, and expenditures;
4
- 5 h) Important rules and regulations, orders or decisions: *Provided*, that they
6 be published within fifteen (15) calendar days from promulgation;
7
- 8 i) Rules of procedure, descriptions of forms available or the places at
9 which forms may be obtained, and instructions as to the scope and
10 contents of all papers, reports, or examinations;
11
- 12 j) Substantive rules of general applicability adopted as authorized by law,
13 and statements of general policy or interpretations of general
14 applicability formulated and adopted by the agency, including
15 subsequent amendments;
16
- 17 k) Datasets generated in the implementation of agency mandates,
18 programs, activities, and projects such as statistics, figures, and
19 geospatial data, among others;
20
- 21 l) Bidding processes, deadlines, and requirements;
22
- 23 m) Mechanisms or procedures by which the public may participate in or
24 otherwise influence the formulation of policy or the exercise of its
25 powers; and
26
- 27 n) Any disclaimer that shall announce true and correct information relative
28 to a matter of public concern that has been the subject of untruthful or
29 inaccurate publication in media.
30

31 SEC. 11. *Capacity-Building, Promotion of Best Practices, and Continuous*
32 *Updating of Appropriate Information Technology and FOI.* – All government agencies
33 shall establish, operate, and maintain a website with features that are compliant with
34 all the provisions of this Act within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act. The
35 Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) shall monitor all
36 government agency websites and render the appropriate support including capacity-
37 building programs and coordination with another appropriate agency, utilizing
38 alternative mechanisms and seeking the assistance of relevant and willing private
39 volunteer groups to ensure full compliance with the requirements of this Act.
40

41 In the performance of its monitoring function of government websites and
42 portals, the DICT shall endeavor to continuously develop, improve, and update its
43 information technology system taking into consideration the usability and practical
44 accessibility of government documents by the public.

1 The DICT shall be responsible for setting the standards for the file formats to
2 be used by the political subdivisions of the State, all national and local government
3 agencies including GOCCs, with or without original charter, in the publication of
4 government public information in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

5
6 Every government agency shall likewise ensure the provision of adequate
7 training for its officials and employees to improve awareness of the people's right to
8 information on matters of public concern and the provisions of this Act, and to keep
9 updated as to best practices in relation to information disclosure, records
10 maintenance, and archiving.

11
12 **SEC. 12. *Exemption from Compliance.*** – A government agency shall be
13 excused from complying with a subsequent identical or substantially similar request
14 from the same requesting party where it has previously complied with a request for
15 information, unless a reasonable interval has lapsed between compliance with the
16 previous request and the making of the current request: *Provided*, that the government
17 agency complies with Section 20 of this Act.

18
19 **SEC. 13. *Protection of Privacy.*** – While providing for access to information in
20 public records, this Act also affords full protection of the right to privacy of individuals,
21 as follows:

- 22
- 23 a) Disclosure of public records involving personal data shall be guided by
24 the principle of transparency, legitimate purpose, and proportionality;
 - 25
 - 26 b) A government agency must ensure that personal and sensitive
27 information in its custody or under its control is disclosed only as
28 permitted under this Act;
 - 29
 - 30 c) A government agency must protect personal data in its custody or under
31 its control in accordance with the provisions of the Republic Act No.
32 10173 or the Data Privacy Act of 2012, its implementing rules and
33 regulations, and issuances by the National Privacy Commission (NPC);
34 and
 - 35
 - 36 d) An employee, officer, or director of a government agency who has
37 access, whether authorized or unauthorized, to personal and sensitive
38 information in the custody of the agency, must not disclose that
39 information except as authorized under this Act.
 - 40

41 **SEC. 14. *Administrative Offenses and Penalties.*** –

- 42 (a) The acts enumerated in this sub-section shall be tantamount to grave
43 administrative offenses and shall constitute grounds for administrative and

1 disciplinary sanction against any public official or employee who willfully
2 and knowingly commits the following:

- 3
- 4 1) Refusal to promptly forward the request under Section 18 of this Act to
5 the public officer within the same office or agency responsible for
6 officially acting on the request when such is the direct cause of the failure
7 to disclose the information within the periods required by this Act;
8
- 9 2) Failure to act on the request within the periods required by this Act;
10
- 11 3) Refusal to comply with the decision of his immediate supervisor, the
12 Ombudsman, or any court ordering the release of information;
13
- 14 4) Approval of policies, rules, and regulations manifestly contrary to the
15 provisions of this Act, and which policies, rules, and regulations are the
16 direct cause of the denial of a request for information; and
17
- 18 5) Failure to upload information required to be posted on an agency's
19 website within the period provided under Section 11: *Provided*, that the
20 head of agency or any other officer or employee tasked to perform said
21 uploading shall be held liable.
22

23 (b) The preceding sub-section does not bar the filing of appropriate
24 administrative cases for other than those grave offenses enumerated above.
25

26 **SEC. 15. *Criminal Offenses and Penalties.*** – The penalty of imprisonment of
27 not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years and a fine ranging from One
28 Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) to One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00) shall
29 be imposed upon:
30

- 31 a) Any public official or employee who falsely denies or conceals the
32 existence of information that is a proper subject for disclosure under this
33 Act;
34
- 35 b) Any public official or employee who destroys, or causes to be destroyed,
36 information and/or documents being requested under this Act, for the
37 purpose of frustrating the requesting party's access thereto;
38
- 39 c) Any public officer or employee responsible for officially acting on the
40 request, who shall claim an exception under Section 7 of this Act, or
41 under the Constitution, when such claim is manifestly devoid of factual
42 basis;

1 d) Any individual who divulged or released information covered under
2 Section 7 of this Act;

3
4 e) Any public officer or employee who divulged or released information that
5 is altered, tampered, or modified to the extent that the released
6 information materially differs from the original contents of the document:
7 *Provided*, that altering or modifying a document for the purpose of
8 severing an exempt information from non-exempt information in a single
9 document shall not be punishable under this sub-section; and

10
11 f) The responsible officers of the public service contractor and the
12 signatories to the contract or any document evidencing transaction with
13 the government or government agency who fail to submit the necessary
14 documents/paper.

15
16 Any private individual who knowingly induced or caused the commission of the
17 foregoing acts shall be liable as principal by inducement in the prosecution of public
18 officials or employees under this section.

19
20 If the violation committed in this Act is induced and assisted by a private
21 individual or a corporation, partnership or any kind of judicial entity, the penalty
22 provided herein shall be imposed on its executive officer and/or other officials
23 responsible therefor: *Provided*, that they shall suffer, in addition to the penalties
24 provided herein, the automatic revocation of their license to operate.

25
26 The acts under this Section, if proven in an administrative proceeding, shall be
27 subject to the penalty of dismissal, even if no criminal prosecution is instituted against
28 the public officer or employee concerned.

29
30 **SEC. 16. *Denial in Good Faith Not a Ground for Liability.*** – A denial in good
31 faith of a request for access to information made pursuant to the provisions of this Act
32 shall not constitute grounds for administrative, civil, or criminal liability. In cases of
33 denial of the request, the public official, officer, or employee involved must prove that
34 he/she acted in good faith by specifying the ground relied upon for the denial.

35
36 **SEC. 17. *Freedom of Information (FOI) Manual.*** – For the effective
37 implementation of this Act, all government agencies shall prepare a Freedom of
38 Information (FOI) Manual, within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act,
39 indicating the following:

40
41 a) The location and contact information of the head, regional, provincial,
42 and field offices of the agency, and other established places where the
43 public can obtain information or submit requests;

- 1 b) The types of information it generates, produces, holds and/or publishes;
2
3 c) A description of its record-keeping system;
4
5 d) The person or office responsible for receiving requests for information;
6
7 e) The procedure for the filing of requests personally, by mail, or through
8 the identified electronic means;
9
10 f) The standard forms for the submission of request and for the proper
11 acknowledgement of the request;
12
13 g) The process for the disposition of the request, including the routing of
14 the request to the person or office with the duty to act on the request, the
15 decision-making process, and the grant or denial of access and its
16 implementation;
17
18 h) The procedure for the administrative appeal of any denial for access to
19 information;
20
21 i) The schedule of service or processing fees pertinent to a request for
22 information;
23
24 j) The process and procedure for the mandatory disclosure of information
25 under Section 9 of this Act: *Provided*, that should the agency lack the
26 capacity to comply with Section 9 of this Act, a brief description of its
27 plan to facilitate compliance within three (3) years from the approval of
28 this Act; and
29
30 k) Such other information, taking into consideration the unique
31 characteristics of an agency, that will help facilitate the effective
32 implementation of this Act.
33

34 The FOI Manual shall also be posted on the agency website, and a hard copy
35 shall be available at the agency reception area for use by the public. These shall be
36 regularly updated.
37

38 In no case shall the absence of the aforementioned FOI Manual be a reason
39 for the denial of any request for information made in accordance with this Act.
40

41 The heads of each of the departments and agencies may designate liaison
42 units or Committees which shall coordinate with the other units of the agency in
43 implementing this Act. The composition, functions, and duties of these liaison units
44 or Committees shall be included in the FOI Manual.

1 SEC. 18. *Procedure of Access.* –

2
3 (a) Any person who wishes to obtain information shall submit, free of charge,
4 a request to the government agency concerned personally, by mail, or through
5 electronic means. A person who is unable, because of illiteracy or disability, to make
6 a written request for information may make an oral request instead. The public officer
7 who receives the oral request shall reduce it to writing, indicating therein his or her
8 name and position within the government agency, and give a copy thereof to the
9 person who made the request. The request shall state the name and preferred
10 contact information of the requesting party, and reasonably describe the information
11 required, the reason for the request of the information, and the preferred means by
12 which the government agency shall communicate such information to the requesting
13 party: *Provided*, that the stated reason shall not be used as a ground to deny the
14 request or to refuse the acceptance of the request, unless such request is contrary to
15 law. If the request is submitted personally, the requesting party shall show a current
16 identification document issued by any government agency, government or private
17 employer or school, or a community tax certificate. If the request is submitted by mail
18 or through electronic means, the requesting party may submit a photostatic or
19 electronically scanned copy of verifiable identification, or other convenient means as
20 determined by the agency.

21
22 (b) The public official receiving the request shall provide reasonable
23 assistance, free of charge, to enable all requesting parties and particularly those with
24 special needs, to comply with the requirements under this Section.

25
26 (c) The request shall be duly received by the concerned government agency,
27 which shall forthwith indicate the date and time of receipt and the name, rank, title,
28 and position of the receiving public officer or employee who shall likewise affix his or
29 her signature thereon, and shall furnish the requesting party a copy thereof. In case
30 the request is submitted by electronic means, the government agency shall provide
31 for an equivalent means by which the requirements of this paragraph shall be met.
32 Each government agency shall establish a system by which the status of all requests
33 for information received by it may be verified at any time.

34
35 (d) The request may indicate the requesting party's preferred mode and
36 means of receiving the information requested, provided that the mode and means
37 are reasonable, taking into consideration equipment normally available to the
38 concerned government agency.

39
40 (e) A government agency may communicate the information requested in a
41 form other than the preferred means whenever such preferred means would
42 unreasonably interfere with the effective operation of the agency, or if the agency

1 has no capability in communicating the information in the preferred format, or when
2 the preferred format may be detrimental to the preservation of the record.

3
4 (f) The government agency shall comply with such request as soon as
5 practicable, and in any case within fifteen (15) working days from the receipt thereof.
6 The period may be extended whenever the information requested requires a search
7 of the government agency's field or satellite offices, examination of voluminous
8 records, the occurrence of fortuitous events, or other analogous cases.

9
10 (g) The government agency shall, in writing or through electronic means,
11 notify the person making the request of the extension, setting forth the reasons for
12 such extension and the date when the information shall be made available, which in
13 no case shall result in extension of more than twenty (20) working days.

14
15 (h) Once a decision is made to grant the request, the person making the
16 request shall be notified of such and pay the required access and processing fees.

17
18 (i) If the information is not held by the government agency from which the
19 request was made, it shall notify the requesting party that it does not hold the
20 information and indicate which agency holds the record, if known. Whenever
21 practicable, the agency receiving the request may also cause the transfer of the
22 request to the appropriate agency that holds the information: *Provided*, that the
23 period to comply with the request under this Section shall begin to run only upon the
24 receipt of the agency to which the request is transferred.

25
26 **SEC. 19. *Access and Processing Fees.*** – Government agencies may charge a
27 reasonable fee to reimburse the actual cost of reproduction, copying, or transcription
28 and the communication of the information requested. An agency may waive the fees
29 whenever it is satisfied that the requester is an indigent, or that the cost of reproduction
30 is negligible, or that it is pursuant to a program for proactive disclosure.

31
32 **SEC. 20. *Notice of Denial.*** – If the government agency decides to deny the
33 request, in whole or in part, it shall, as soon as practicable, and in any case within
34 fifteen (15) working days from the receipt of the request, notify the person making the
35 request of such denial in writing or through electronic means. The notice shall indicate
36 the name, rank, title, or position of the person making the denial, clearly set forth the
37 ground or grounds for denial and the circumstances on which the denial is based, and
38 indicate available rights of reconsideration or appeal. Failure to notify the person
39 making the request of the denial, or of the extension, shall be deemed a denial of the
40 request for access to information.

41
42 **SEC. 21. *Remedies in Cases of Denial.*** –

43
44 (a) In all government agencies other than the judicial branch:

1 1) Every denial of any request for access to information may be appealed
2 to the person or office next higher in authority of the same agency,
3 following the procedure required under Section 17 (h) of this Act:
4 *Provided*, that the appeal must be filed by the same person making the
5 request within fifteen (15) working days from the receipt of the notice of
6 denial. The appeal shall be decided by the person or office next higher
7 in authority of the same agency within five (5) working days from the
8 filing of said appeal. Failure of the government agency to decide within
9 the aforementioned period shall constitute a denial of the appeal.

10
11 2) A person denied access to information may file a verified complaint with
12 the Office of the Ombudsman, praying that the government agency
13 concerned be directed to immediately afford access to the information
14 being requested. The Office of the Ombudsman shall promulgate its
15 special rules of procedure for the immediate disposition of complaints
16 filed pursuant to this Section. Unless restrained or enjoined, the
17 decisions of the Office of the Ombudsman shall be immediately
18 executory, without prejudice to review in accordance with the Rules of
19 Court.

20
21 3) Upon denial of the appeal with the government agency, the requesting
22 party may file a verified petition for *mandamus* in the proper court,
23 alleging the facts with certainty and praying that judgment be rendered
24 ordering the respondent, immediately or at some other time to be
25 specified by the court, to disclose the information and to pay the
26 damages sustained by the requesting party by reason of the denial. The
27 procedure for such petition shall be summary in nature. Subject to the
28 provisions of existing laws and the issuances of the Supreme Court, all
29 courts shall give preference to the hearing and disposition of petitions
30 for *mandamus* filed pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

31
32 In resolving a complaint or petition brought under paragraphs (2) and (3) hereof,
33 the Ombudsman or the court is empowered to receive the information subject of a
34 claim of exception under Section 7 herein and examine them *in camera* to determine
35 the sufficiency of the factual and legal basis of such claim, when such sufficiency
36 cannot be reasonably determined through evidence and circumstances apart from the
37 information.

38
39 (b) In the Judicial Branch, the judiciary shall be governed by such remedies as
40 promulgated by the Supreme Court.

41
42 (c) The remedies under this section shall be sought or granted without prejudice
43 to any other administrative, civil, or criminal action covering the same act.

1 (d) The remedies available under this Act shall be exempt from the rules on
2 non-exhaustion of administrative remedies. The provisions of Republic Act No. 9285,
3 otherwise known as the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004, shall not apply to
4 cases filed pursuant to this section.

5
6 (e) In case the requesting party has limited or no financial capacity, the Public
7 Attorney's Office shall be mandated to provide legal assistance to the requesting party
8 in availing of the remedies provided under this Act.

9
10 **SEC. 22. Keeping of Records. –**

11
12 (a) Government agencies shall create and maintain in appropriate formats,
13 accurate and reasonably complete documentation or records of their organization,
14 policies, transactions, decisions, resolutions, enactments, actions, procedures,
15 operations, activities, communications, and documents received or filed with them and
16 the data generated or collected. These shall include working files such as drafts or
17 notes, for whenever these have been circulated within the agency for official purpose
18 such as discussion, comment, or approval or when these contain unique information
19 that can substantially contribute to a proper understanding of the agency organization,
20 policies, transactions, decisions, resolutions, enactments, actions, procedures,
21 operations, and activities. This likewise includes information submitted by public
22 service contractors to the government agency concerned such as receipts, identities
23 of the suppliers, purchase orders, cash vouchers, related agreements with other
24 private entities, and other documents related to the execution or the implementation
25 of their transactions or contracts with the government agency involved.

26
27 (b) Government agencies shall identify specific and classes of official records
28 in their custody or control that have continuing historical, administrative, informational,
29 legal, evidentiary, or research value for preservation by such agencies or their
30 legitimate successors, or for transfer to the National Archives of the Philippines (NAP).
31 In addition, the NAP shall likewise identify specific and classes of official records that
32 it shall require agencies to preserve and transfer to it.

33
34 (c) In addition to the specific and classes of official records identified for
35 preservation under letter (b) of this section, the following shall not be destroyed:

- 36
37 1) Records pertaining to loans obtained or guaranteed by the government;
38
39 2) Records of government contracts;
40
41 3) The original declaration under oath of the SALN of public officers and
42 employees, as required by law; and

1 4) Records of official investigations pertaining to allegations of graft and
2 corruption of public officers.
3

4 (d) Government agencies shall prepare, following the standards and period
5 promulgated pursuant to Republic Act No. 9470 or the National Archives of the
6 Philippines Act of 2007, a records management program that includes the following:
7

8 1) A records maintenance system for the creation, selection, classification,
9 indexing, and filing of official records that facilitate the easy identification,
10 retrieval, and communication of information to the public;
11

12 2) A records maintenance, archival, and disposition schedule providing a
13 listing of records under current use for retention by the agency, for
14 transfer to the National Archives, or for destruction: *Provided*, that
15 destruction of the official records may be implemented only upon
16 approval of the NAP; and
17

18 3) Identification of the specific roles and responsibilities of agency
19 personnel in the implementation of such system and schedule.
20

21 (e) In addition to its function as repository of all rules and regulations issued by
22 agencies as provided under Book VII, Chapter II of the Administrative Code of 1987,
23 the University of the Philippines Law Center (UPLC) shall, in coordination with the
24 Office of the President which has exclusive editorial and printing jurisdiction over the
25 *Official Gazette*, and with other relevant agencies, maintain a database, and publish
26 the same in print in the *Official Gazette* or in digital or online form, the following:
27

28 1) All laws of the Philippines and their amendments, from the period of the
29 Philippine Commission to the present;
30

31 2) All presidential issuances from November 15, 1935 to the present,
32 including but not limited, to executive orders, presidential proclamations,
33 administrative orders, memorandum circulars, general orders, and other
34 similar issuances;
35

36 3) A database of all appointments and designations made by the President
37 of the Philippines; and
38

39 4) Opinions of the Secretary of Justice.
40

41 SEC. 23. *Publication in the Official Gazette.* – For purposes of mandatory
42 disclosure as provided in Section 9 of this Act, online publication in the *Official Gazette*
43 website shall be considered official publication provided there shall be a timestamp in
44 the said document.

1 For purposes of compliance with Article 2 of the Civil Code of the Philippines,
2 publication of the following in the online version of the *Official Gazette*, with the
3 corresponding timestamps on the document, shall be considered as official
4 publication:

- 5
- 6 a) All legislative Acts and resolutions of a public nature of the Congress of the
7 Philippines;
 - 8
 - 9 b) All executive and administrative orders and proclamations of general
10 application;
 - 11
 - 12 c) Decisions or abstracts of decisions of the Supreme Court and the Court of
13 Appeals or other courts of similar rank, as may be deemed by said courts of
14 sufficient importance to be so published;
 - 15
 - 16 d) Such documents or classes of documents as the President shall determine from
17 time to time to have general application or which he may authorize to be
18 published.

19

20 *However*, other documents or classes of documents as may be required to be
21 published by law, such as petitions and/or legal notices in connection with land titles,
22 naturalization or special proceedings shall continue to be published in the print version
23 of the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation for purposes of
24 compliance with the publication requirement.

25

26 **SEC 24. Use of Plain Language.** – Every government agency shall endeavor
27 to use plain language in their communications, orders, compliance, requirements, or
28 instructions issued to implement the provisions of this Act. The government agencies
29 shall translate key information into major Filipino languages and present them in
30 popular form and means.

- 31
- 32 a) To carry out the provision of this Act, the Civil Service Commission (CSC) is
33 designated to issue guidelines on the use of plain language to suit the needs of
34 the requesting party;
 - 35
 - 36 b) The CSC shall provide the necessary training to employees of each
37 government agency in using plain language in public documents;
 - 38
 - 39 c) All departments, agencies, and instrumentalities of the national government,
40 including LGUs and SUCs, shall designate an official responsible for
41 implementing the plain language; and

1 d) Website contents including, but not limited to, financial data, notices, and other
2 technical and legal documents, of government agencies must also be written in
3 plain language to ensure that this information is easy to read, understand, and
4 use.
5

6 **SEC. 25. *Act Not a Bar to Claim of Right to Information Under the Constitution.***
7 – No provision of this Act shall be interpreted as a bar to any claim of denial of the
8 right to information under Article III, Section 7 of the 1987 Constitution.
9

10 **SEC. 26. *Tracking Requests for Information.*** – Websites of government
11 agencies shall contain a matrix of requests made, their status, and the decision
12 regarding the request. The matrix shall also contain links to uploaded information from
13 approved requests. In such cases where requests are denied, the matrix shall contain
14 the reasons for denial and the status of the appeal if such is done.
15

16 **SEC. 27. *Release to One, Release to All.*** – For purposes of streamlining
17 requests for information, once information has been made available to an individual
18 through a request for information, the said dataset shall also be published in an
19 appropriate website such as, but not limited to, the *Official Gazette* website,
20 Departmental website, or Local Government website, thus allowing the public access
21 to all information that has been requested.
22

23 **SEC. 28. *Integration of Freedom of Information (FOI) and Good Governance In***
24 ***Elementary and Secondary Curriculum.*** – To ensure well-informed generations of
25 citizens, the right to information, the principles of accountability and transparency,
26 democracy and leadership, and good governance shall be integrated in such subjects
27 as *Heyograpiya, Kasaysayan, at Sibika* (HEKASI) and *Araling Panlipunan* in the
28 elementary level and in such subjects as Social Studies and *Makabayan* or its
29 equivalent subjects in the high school level. The Department of Education (DepEd), in
30 coordination with the Civil Service Commission and other relevant offices, shall
31 prepare the necessary modules and teaching programs consistent with the objectives
32 of this Act.
33

34 **SEC. 29. *Reports on FOI.*** – All government agencies are required to submit
35 annual reports on the number of requests for information received, processed,
36 granted, and denied; of appeals made from the denial thereof; of pending court actions
37 it is a party to as result of such requests; and such other information as provided in
38 this Act. The said report may be integrated in the agencies' main Annual Report, and
39 its posting and publication in their respective websites shall be considered as sufficient
40 compliance.
41

42 **SEC. 30. *System of Incentives and Rewards.*** – A system of special incentives
43 and rewards is hereby established to be given to appropriate government agencies or
44 agencies that initiated and displayed compliance and full participation in the

1 meaningful implementation of this Act. The incentives and rewards may include, but
2 not limited to, social projects, grants-in-aid, national recognition, and similar
3 entitlements.

4
5 SEC. 31. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions
6 of this Act shall be charged against the agencies' current budget and shall thereafter
7 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

8
9 SEC. 32. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
10 or unconstitutional, the provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force
11 and effect.

12
13 SEC. 33. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
14 regulations, issuances, or any part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act,
15 including Sections 18, 24 and 25, Book I, of Executive Order No. 292 or the
16 Administrative Code of 1987 in relation to Article 2 of Republic Act No. 386 or the Civil
17 Code, Memorandum Circular No. 78 dated 14 August 1964 (Promulgating Rules
18 Governing Security of Classified Matter in Government Offices), as amended, and
19 Section 3, Rule IV of the Rules Implementing Republic Act No. 6713 (Code of Conduct
20 and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees), are deemed repealed:
21 *Provided*, that Memorandum Circular No. 78 shall be deemed repealed after one (1)
22 year from the effectivity of this Act or upon issuance of the Executive Order in Section
23 7(a), whichever comes first.

24
25 SEC. 34. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
26 publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
27 Philippines.

Approved,